

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088245
ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088245

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, WFC

SUBJECT: WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF: (A) OSLO 1589, (B) STATE 81535

1. AASLAND WAS SECOND NORWEGIAN WHOSE NAME SURFACED AS
LIKELY CANDIDATE. WHILE IT IS TRUE GON DISCUSSED HIS
CANDIDACY WITH USDA, WE MADE NO COMMITMENT. AS WE UNDER-
STAND IT, IT WAS ARRANGED FOR AASLAND TO MEET WITH THE
WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER
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MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU (VP'S). BEGIN FYI. FROM BOTH
HANNAH AND TANCO WE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT WHILE AASLAND
HAD GOOD BACKGROUND AND WAS OTHERWISE IMPRESSIVE HE DID
NOT APPEAR STRONG ENOUGH TO DIRECT WFC SECRETARIAT WHICH
HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN FORMATIVE YEARS IN
ROME. END FYI.

2. DESPITE FACT WE REGARD NORDIC COUNTRIES GENERALLY AS OVERREPRESENTED IN TOP UN AGENCY POSTS, WE, NEVERTHELESS, TOLD WALDHEIM WE WOULD SUPPORT AASLAND IF THAT WAS HIS CHOICE, BUT WOULD OFFER AN AMERICAN CANDIDATE IF HE DECIDED NOT TO APPOINT THE NORWEGIAN. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE U.K., FRG, AND BANGLADESH PRESENTED CANDIDATURES AND OTHERS WERE RUMORED. THIS APPEARED TO REDUCE AASLAND'S

CHANCES. WE SHORTLY WERE TOLD (RELIABLY WE THINK) THAT WALDHEIM WAS PREPARING TO APPOINT A PERSON OTHER THAN AASLAND. FACED WITH THIS, THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED ITS CANDIDATE.

3. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS STAGE TO ENCOURAGE AASLAND'S CANDIDACY BUT WE ALSO WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ADVISE HIM NOT TO COME. IF OUR CANDIDATURE SHOULD NOT SUCCEED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE OUR OWN JUDGMENT ON AASLAND'S CAPABILITY. THEREFORE, YOU MIGHT TELL NORWEGIANS THAT WHILE WE FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT OUR CANDIDATE AND ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING SUPPORT FOR HIM, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK TO AASLAND IF A STOPOVER EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK IS MADE.

4. NATURALLY, SHOULD GON WITHDRAW NORWEGIAN CANDIDACY, WE WOULD WELCOME ITS SUPPORT FOR WILLIAMS. VANCE

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